



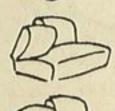


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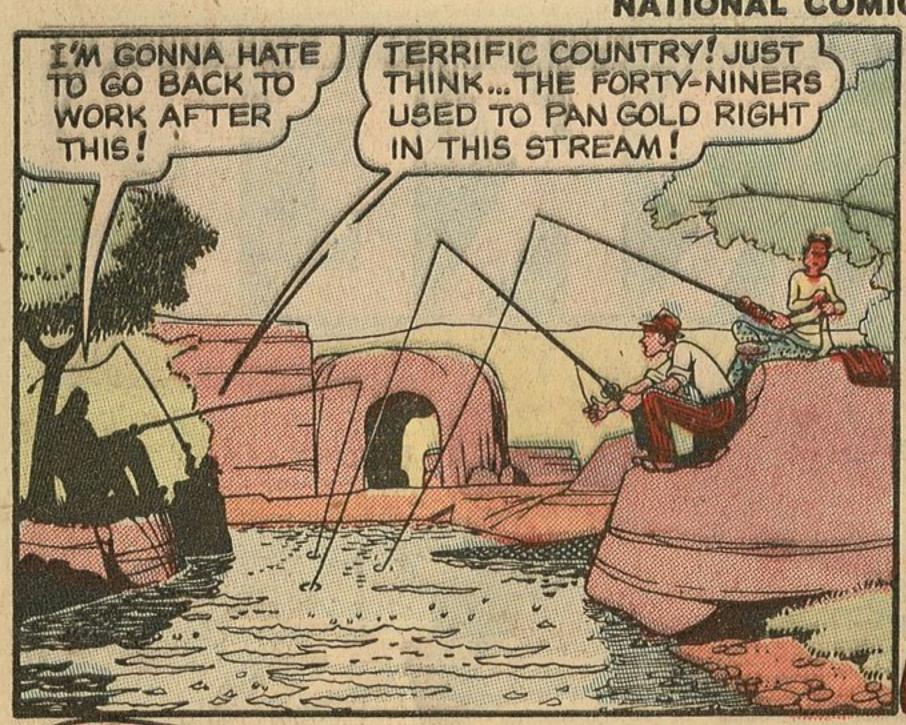
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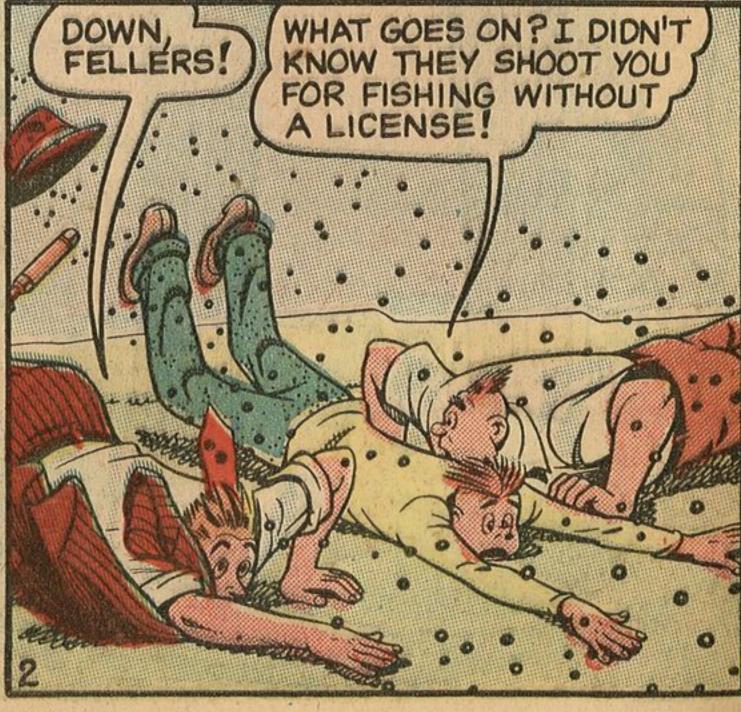


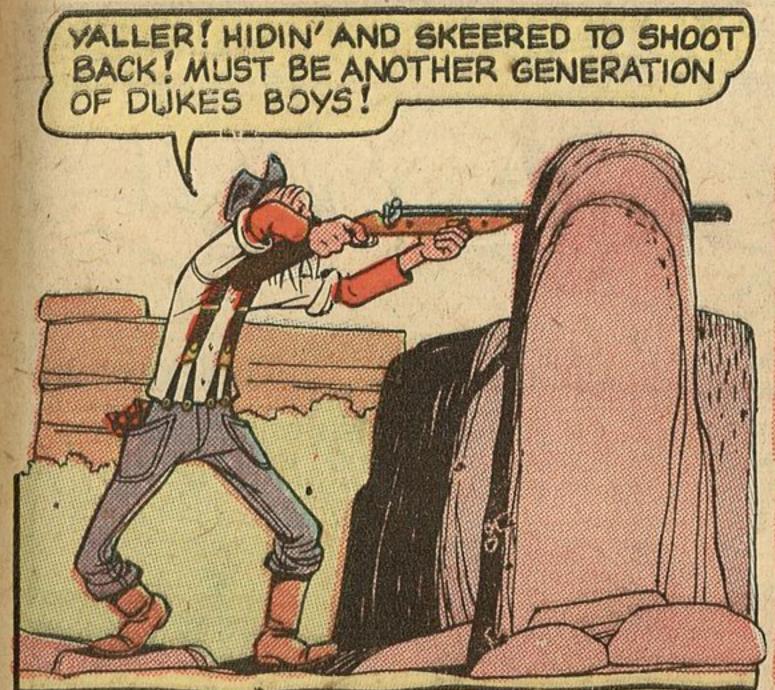


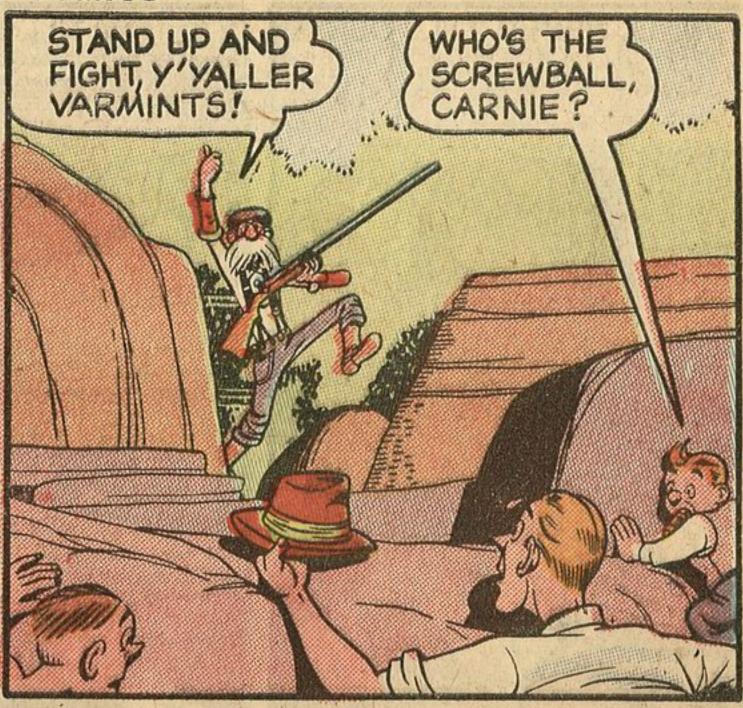




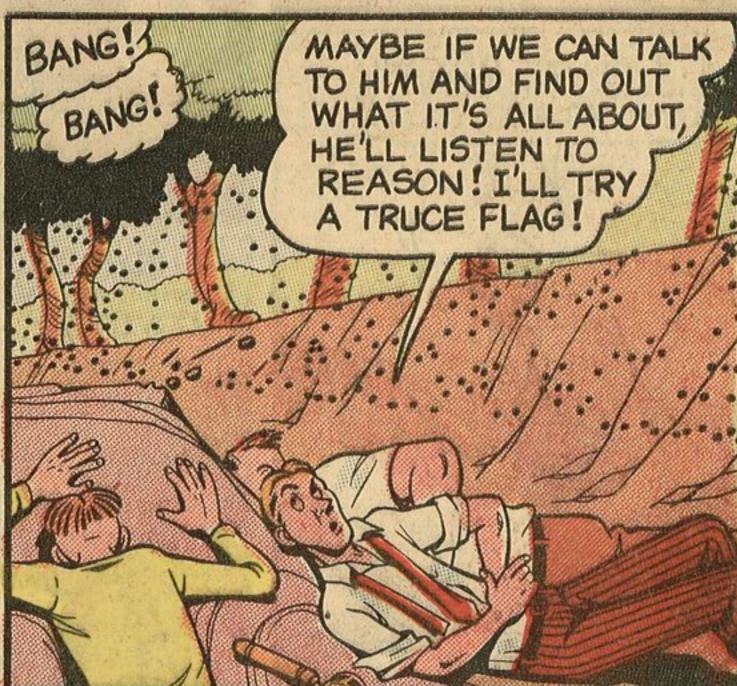




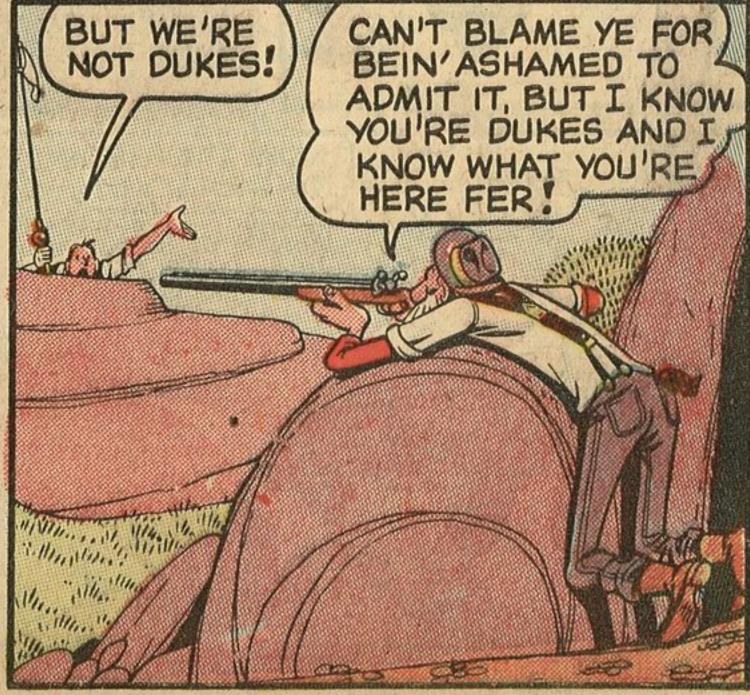


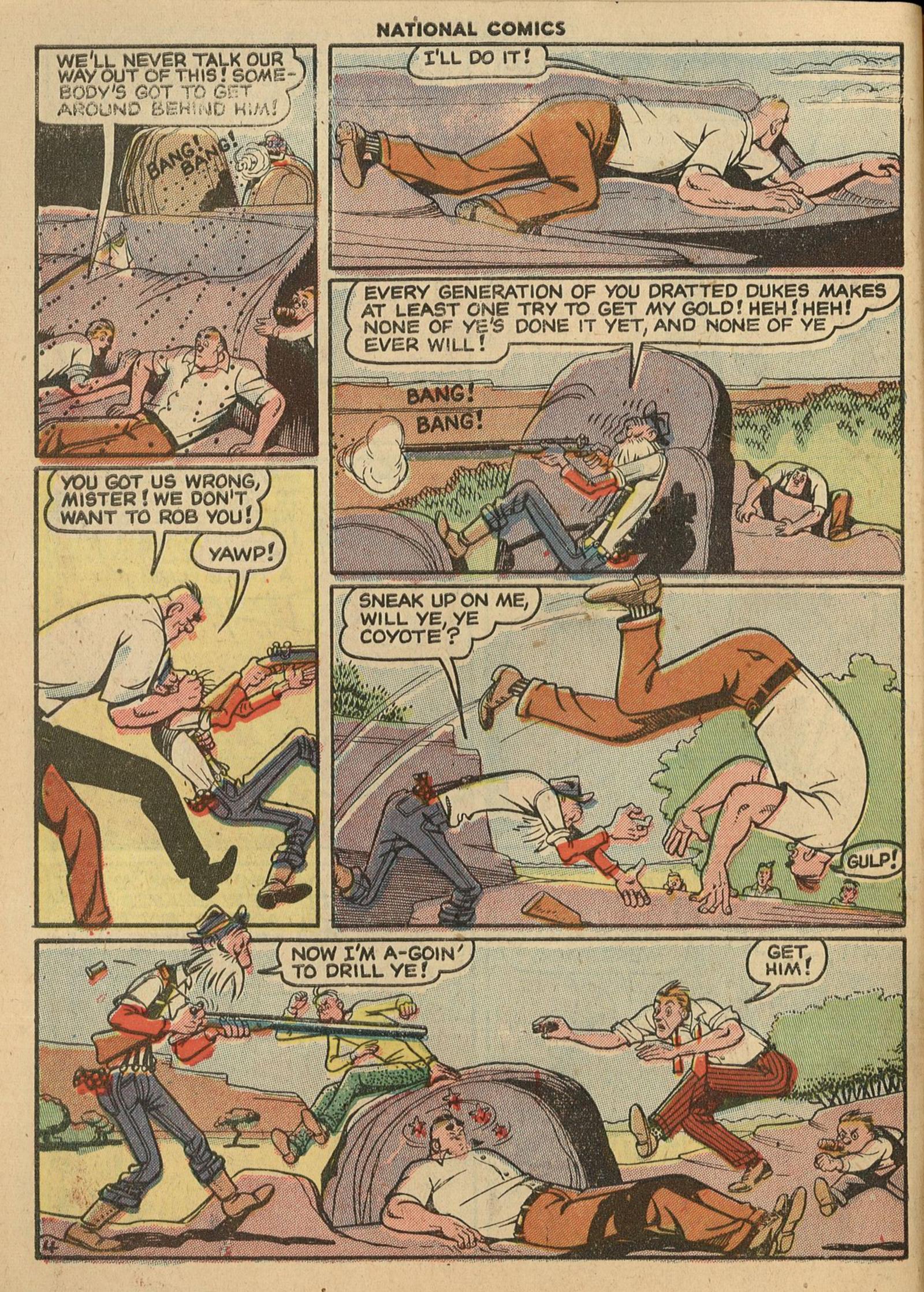




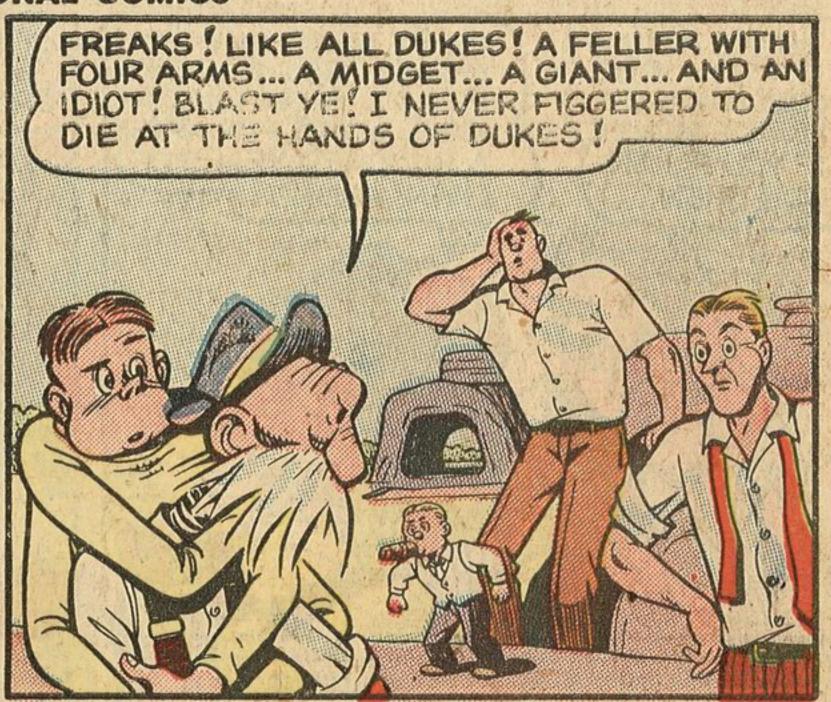


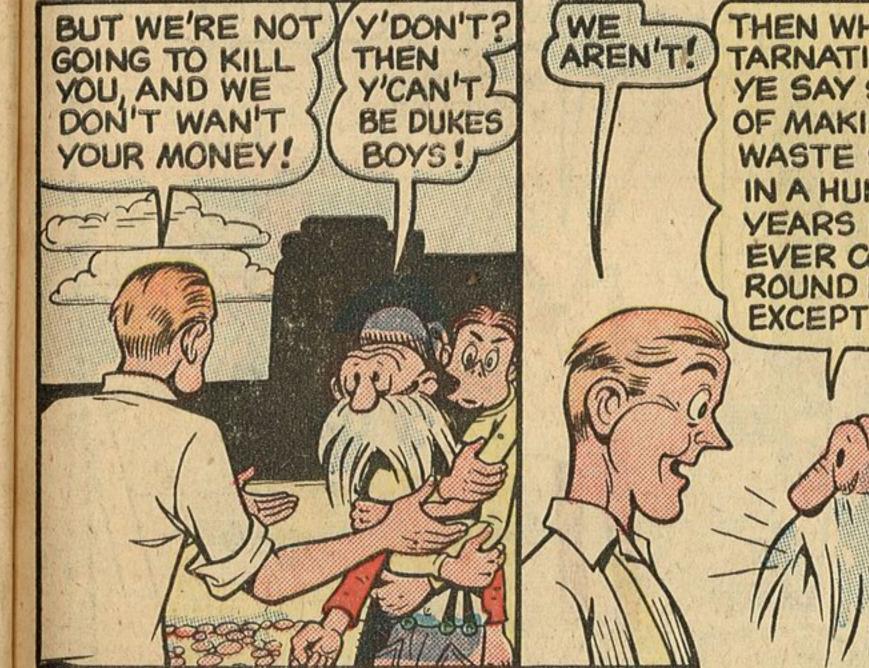


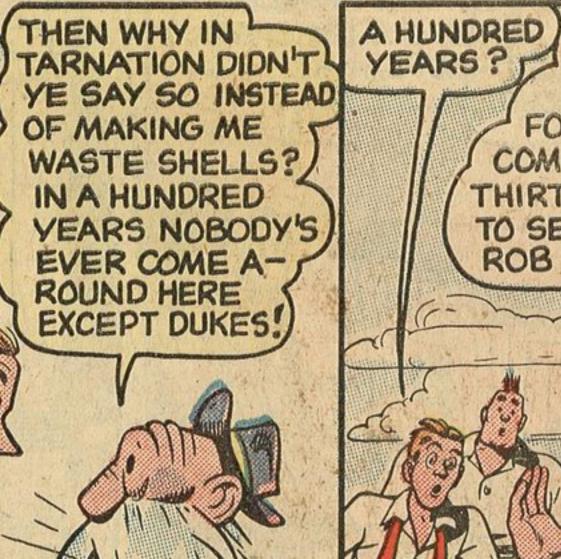














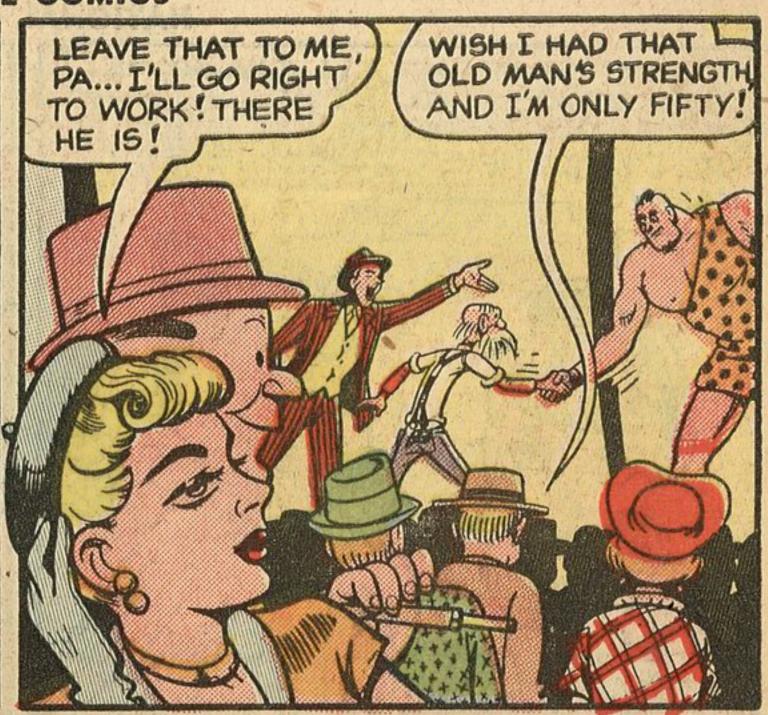
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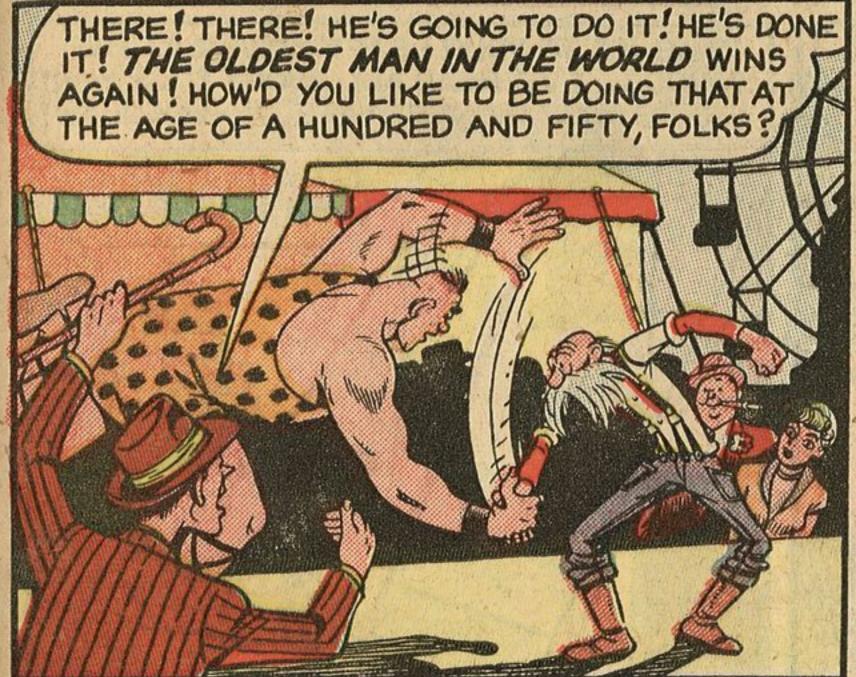












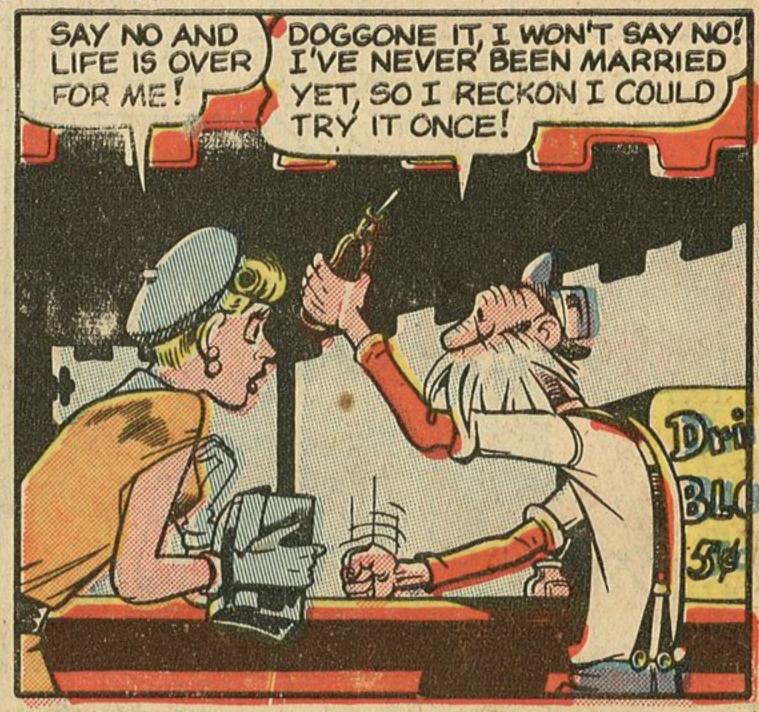








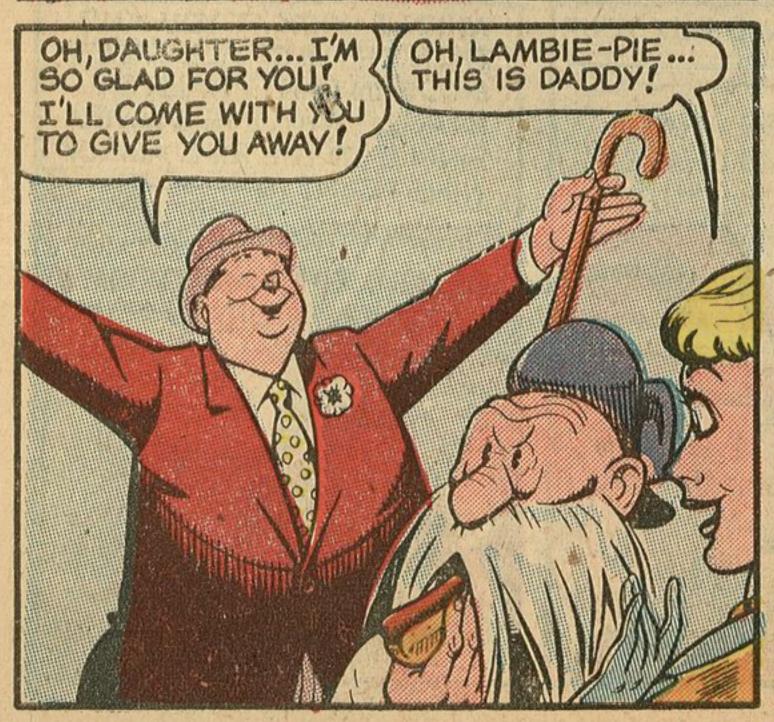


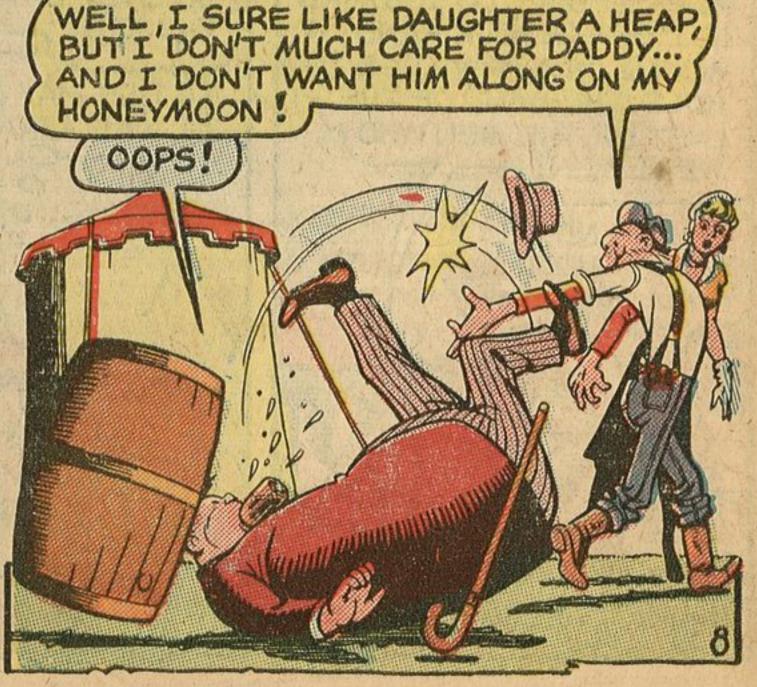




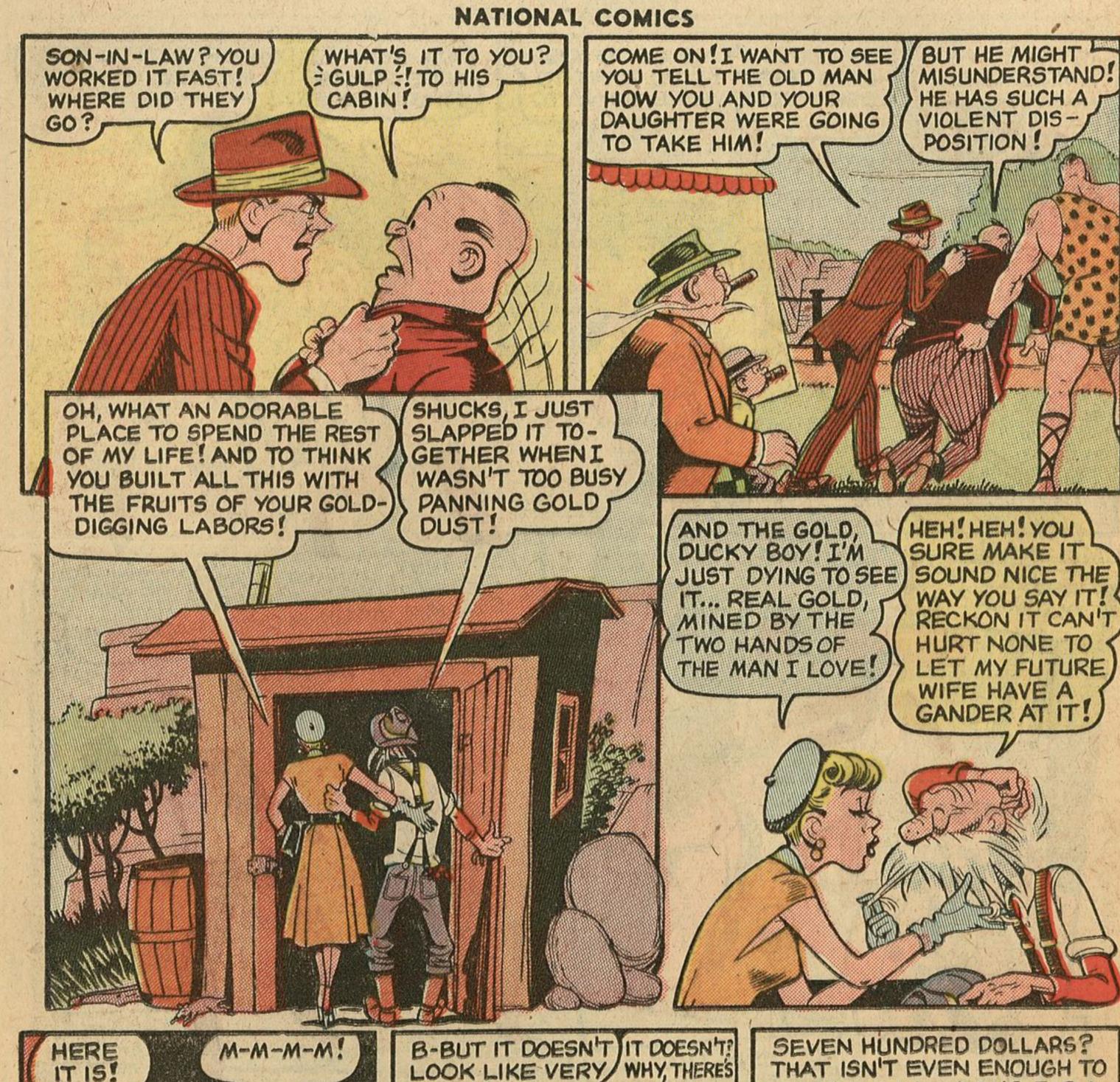


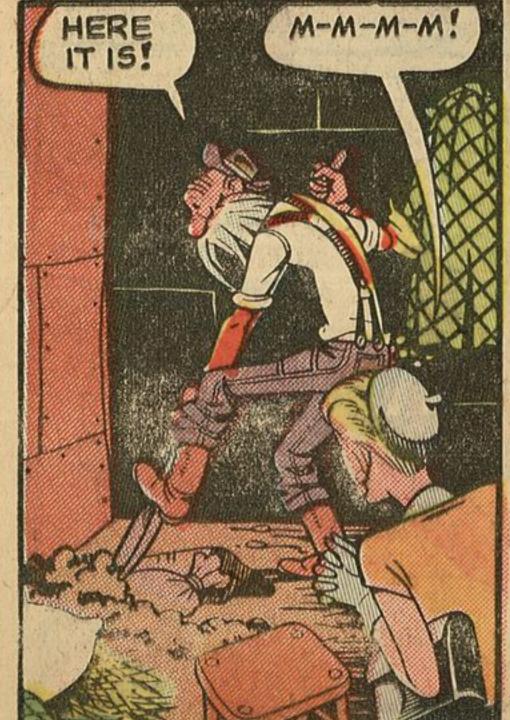
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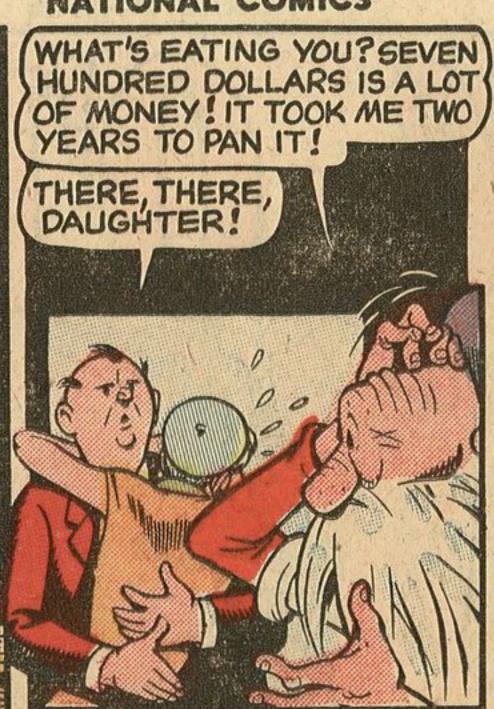




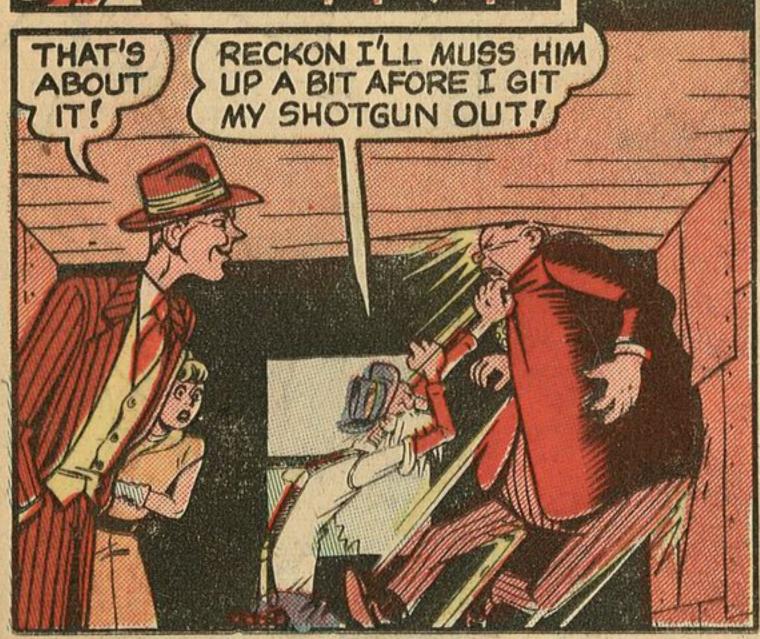




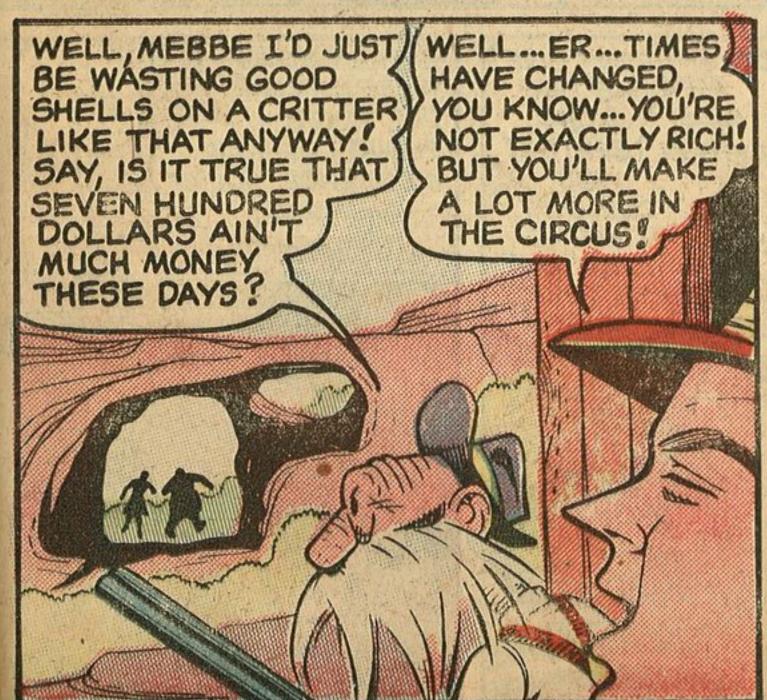


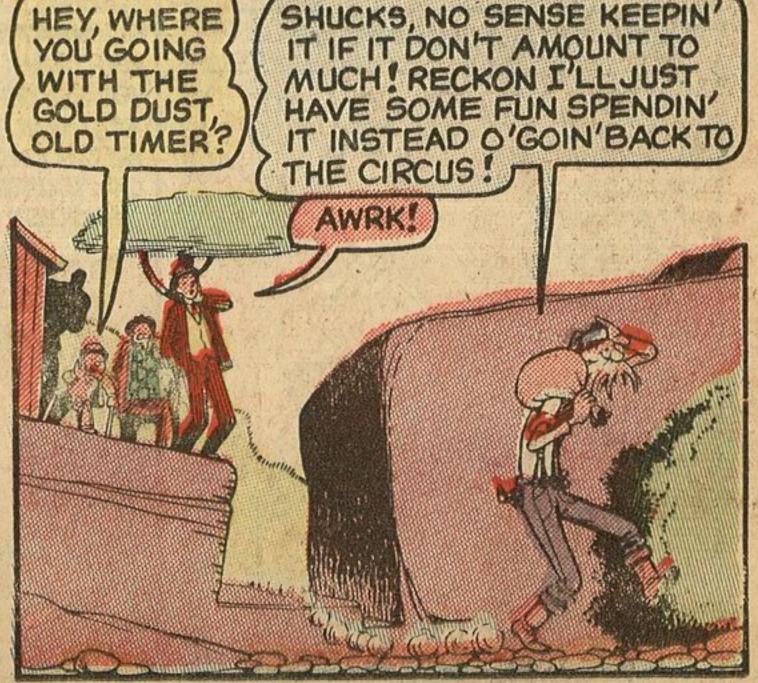




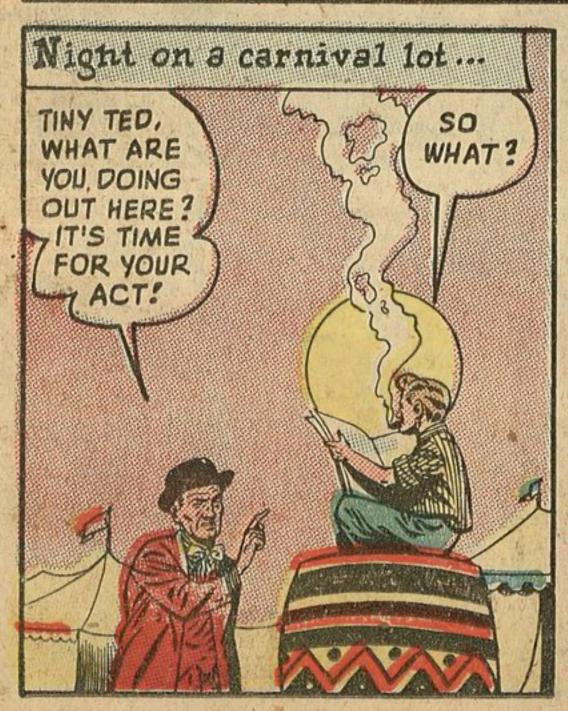






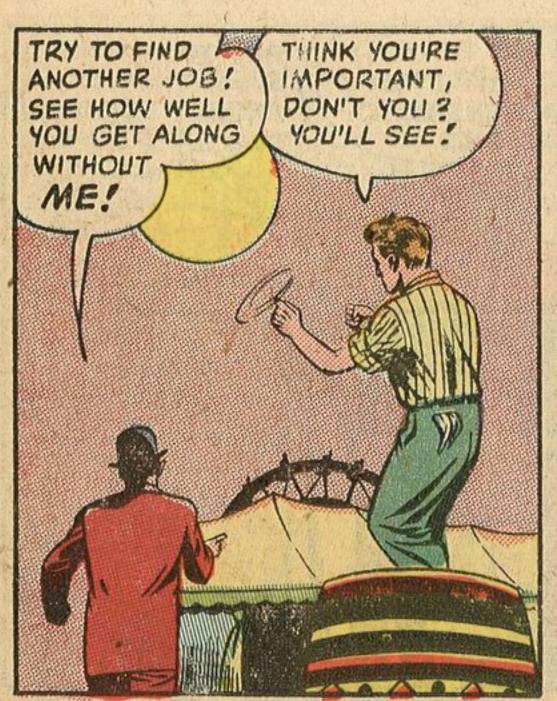




































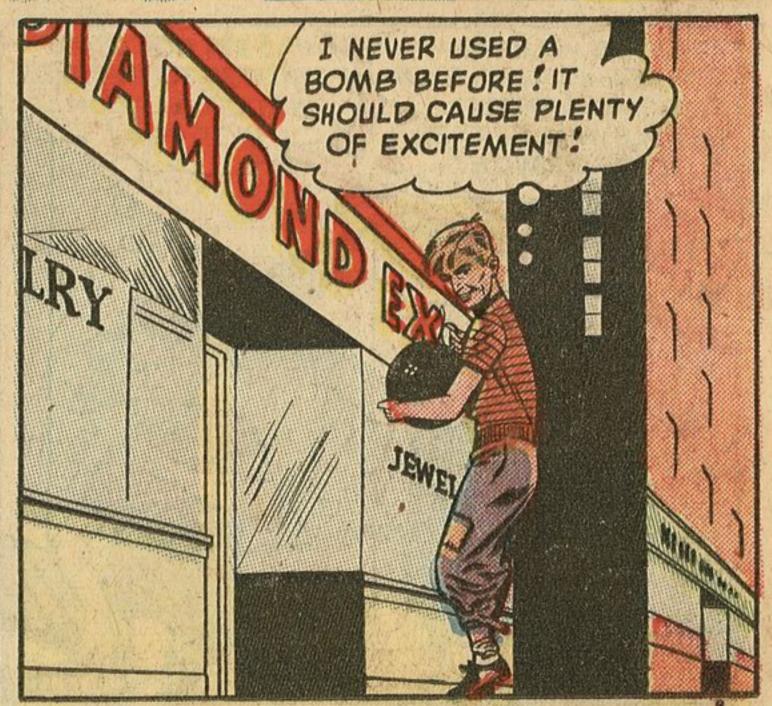


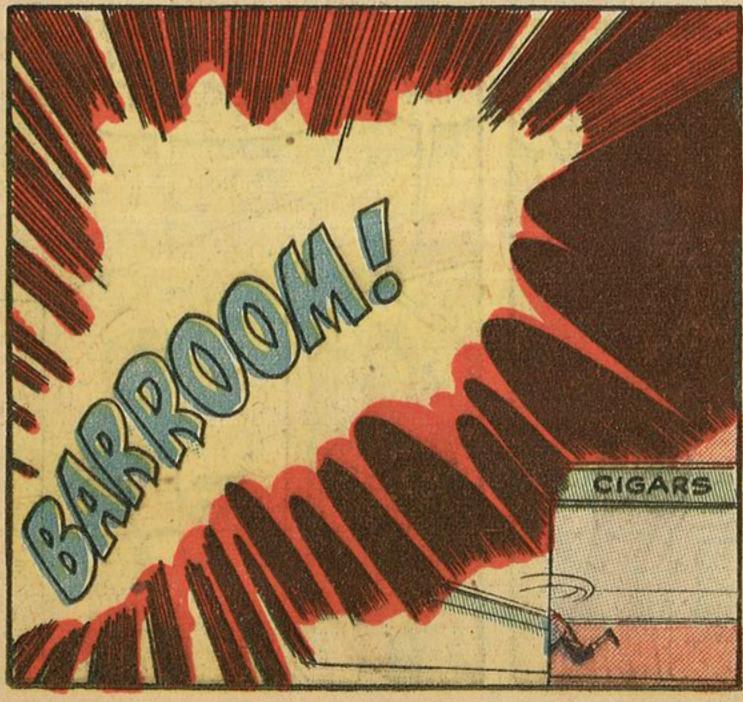








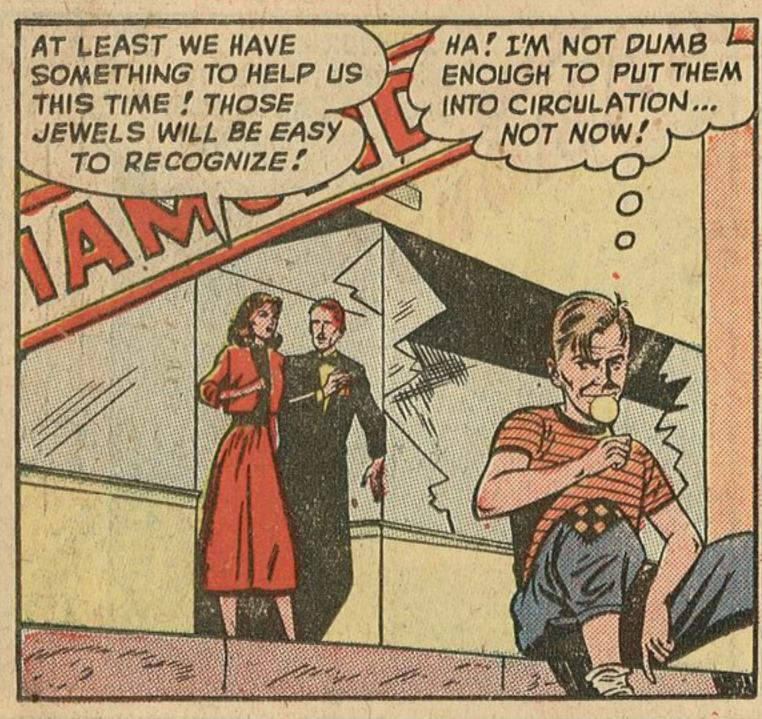


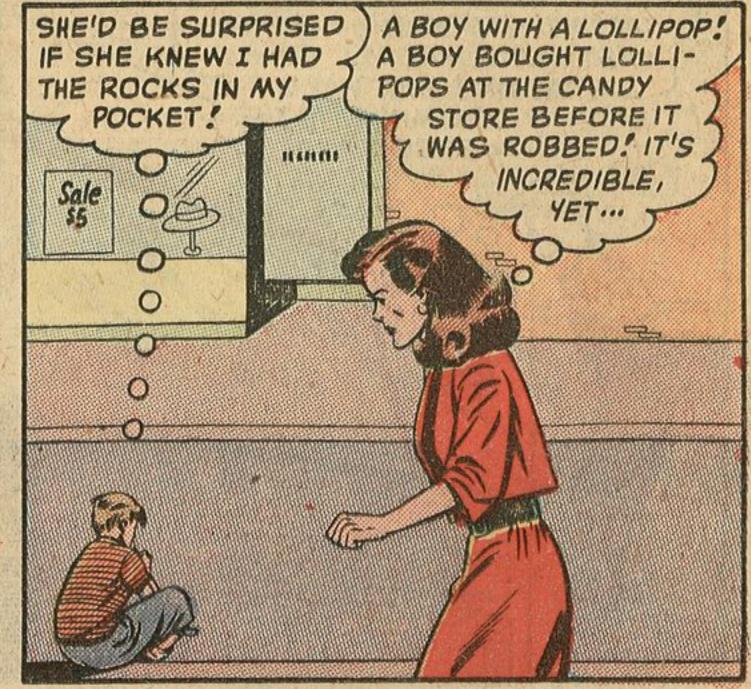










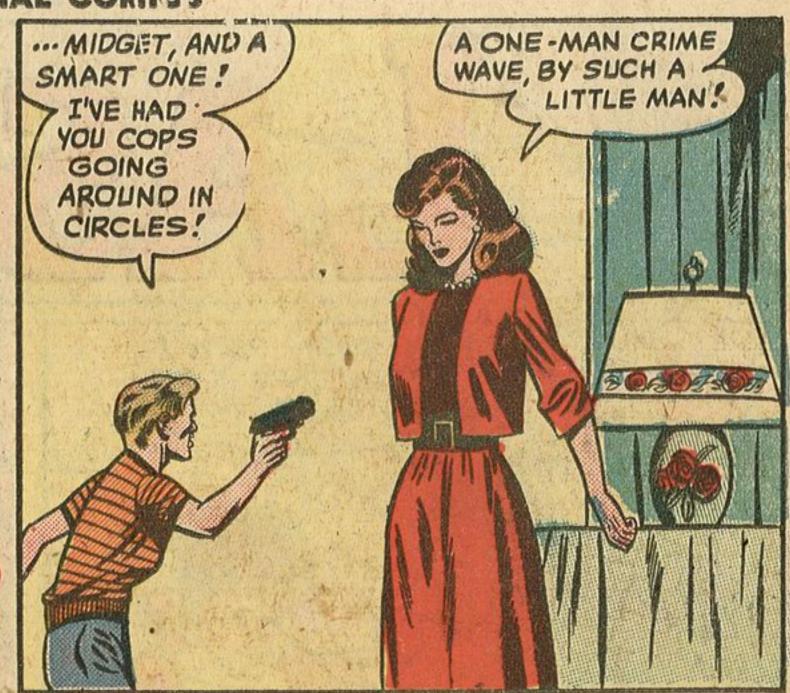




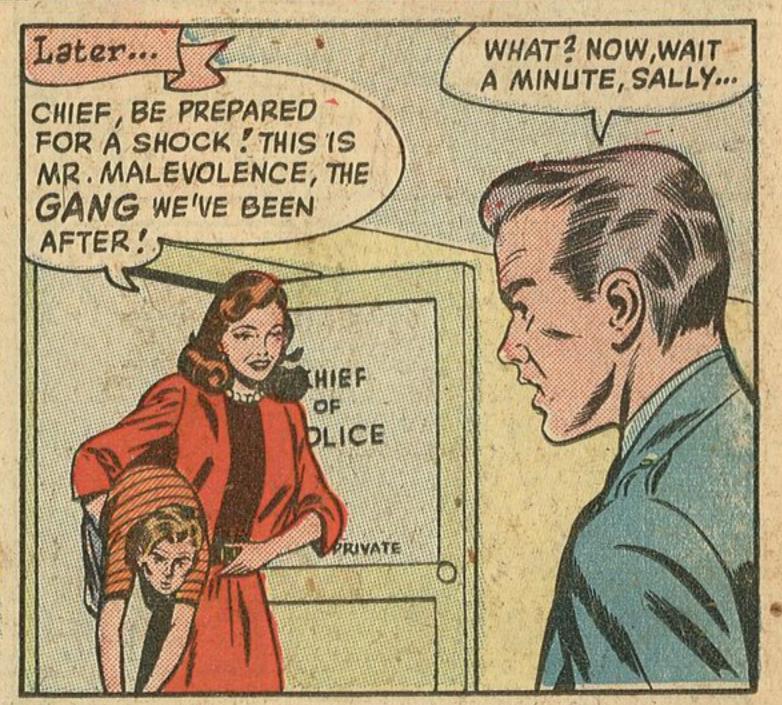


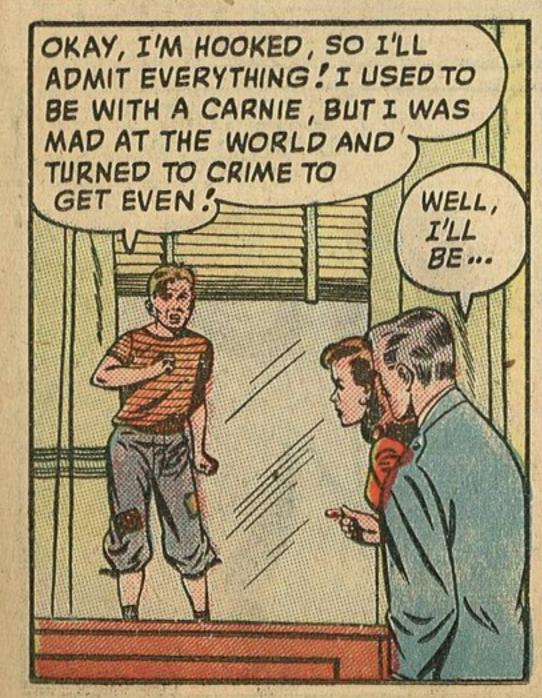


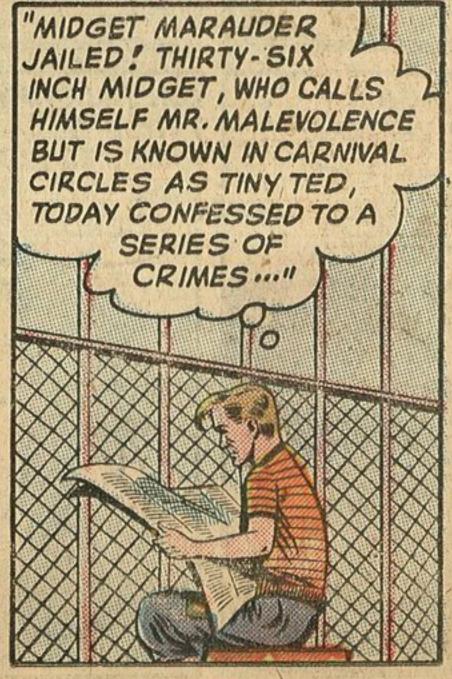








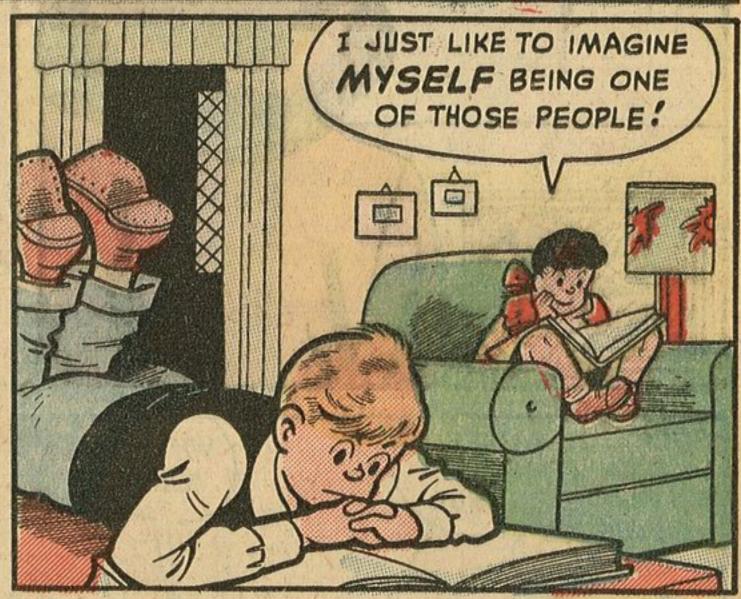






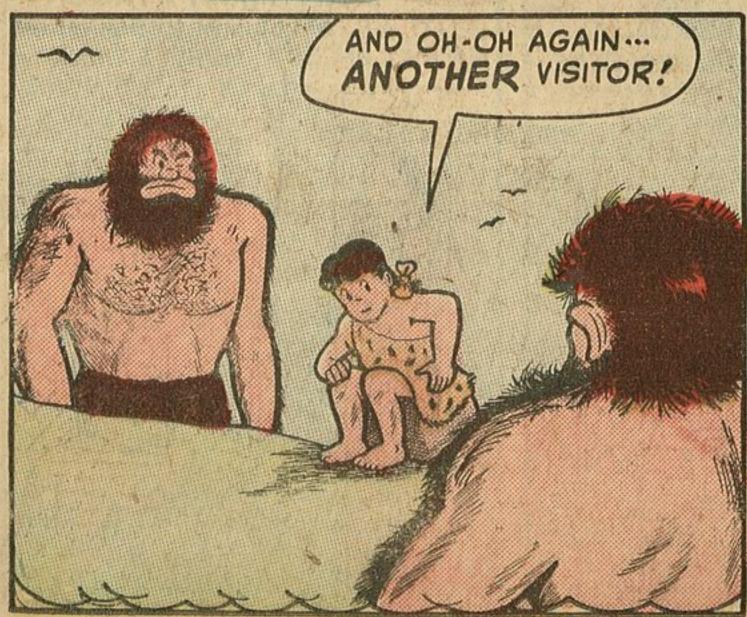




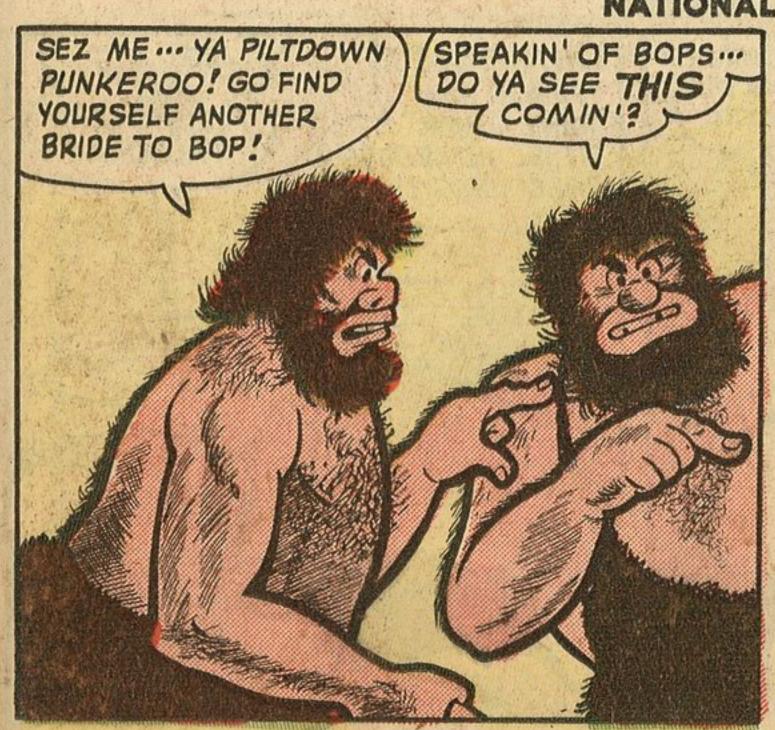




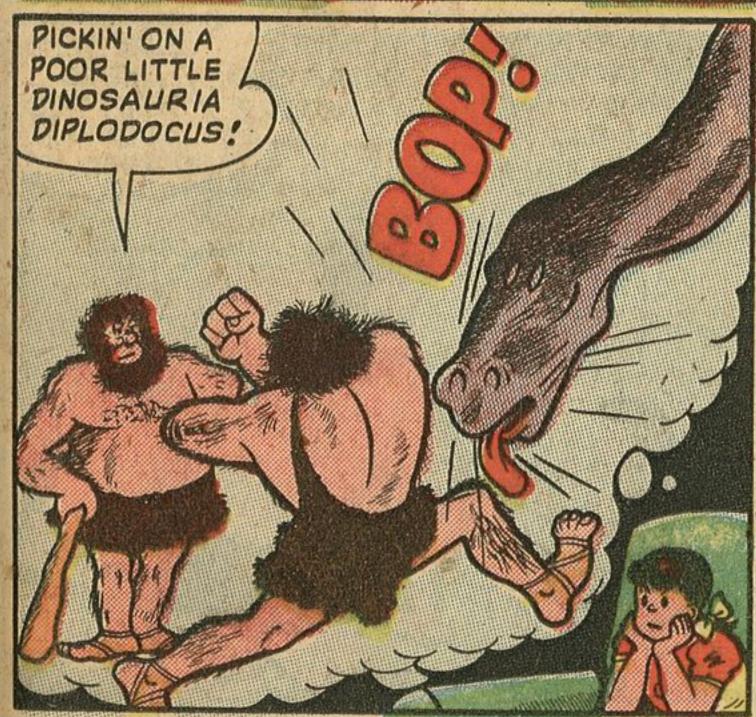


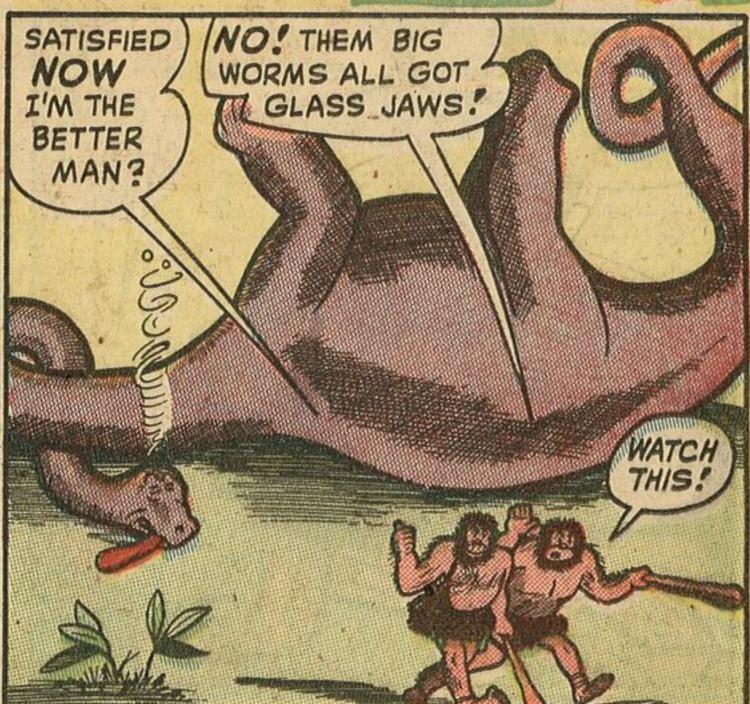


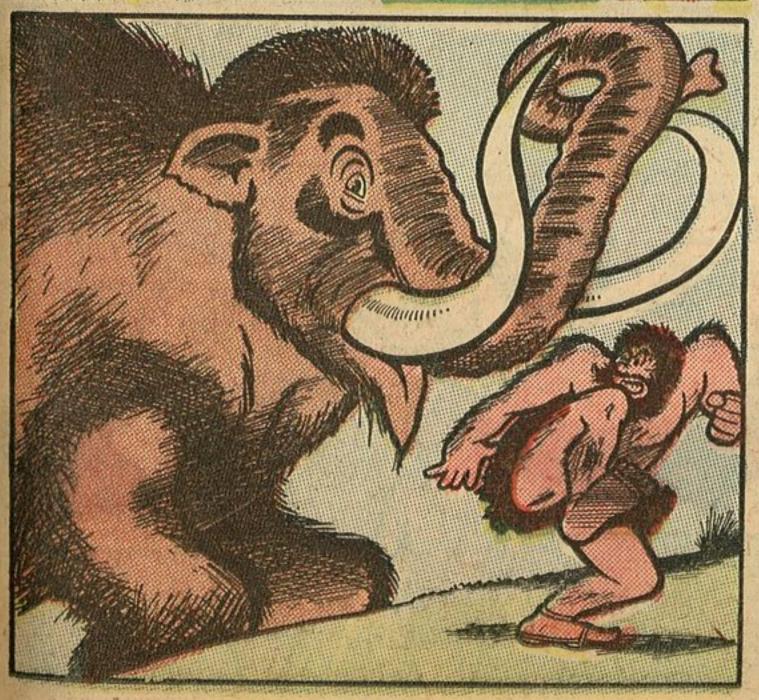


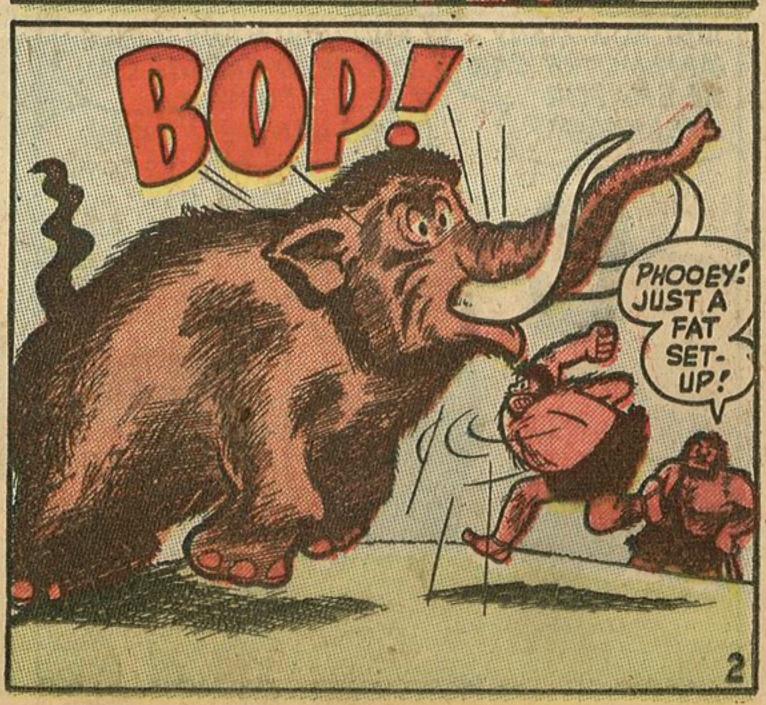


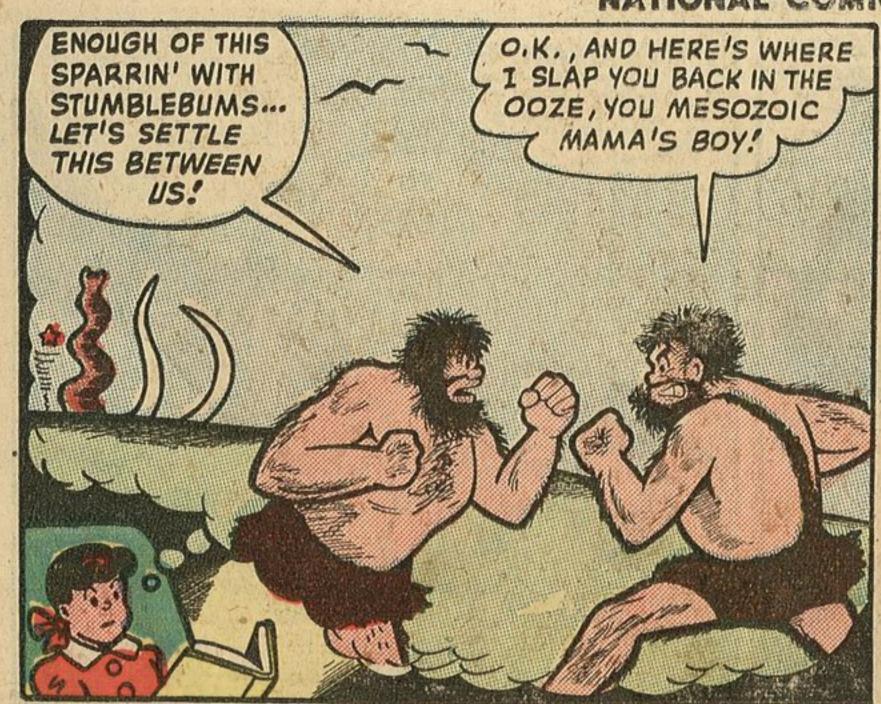




















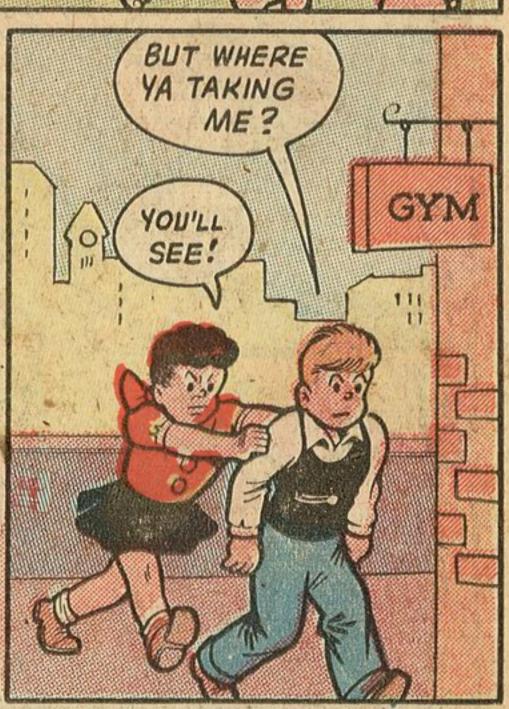


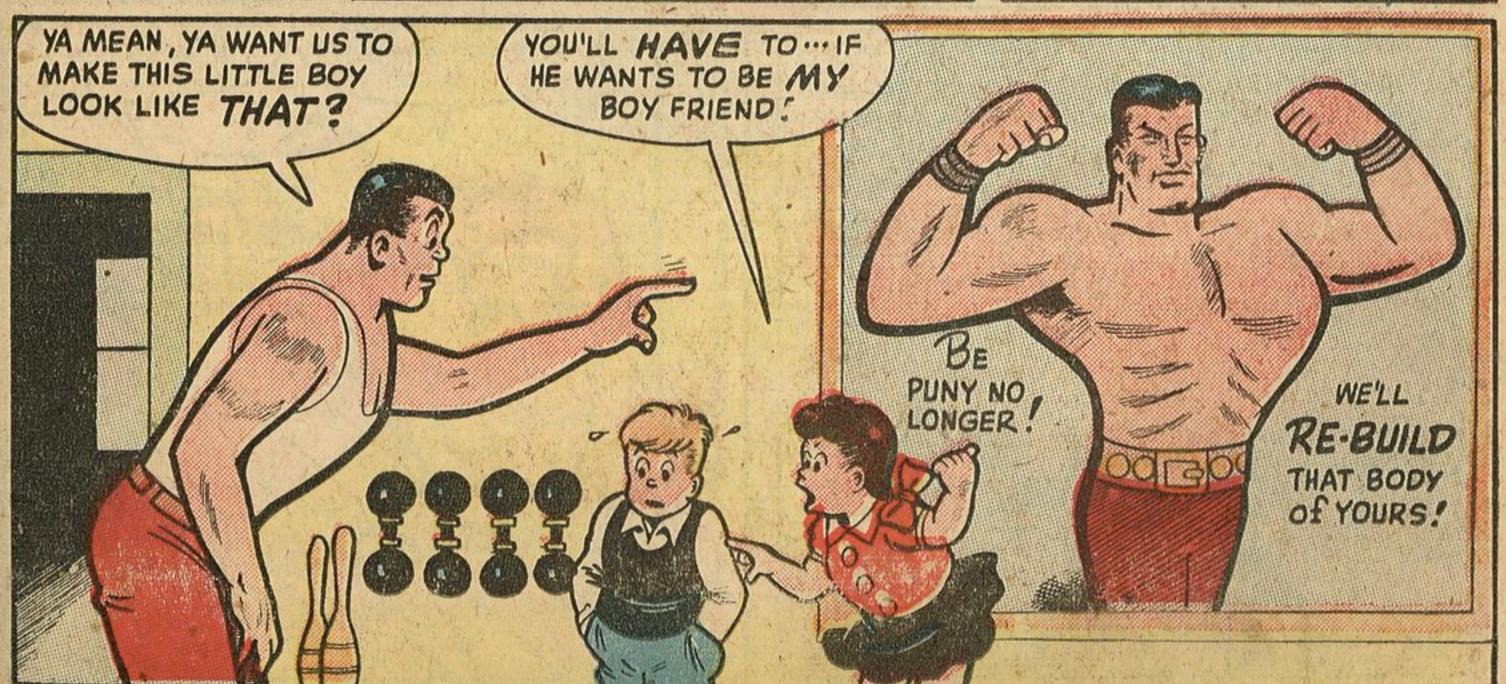






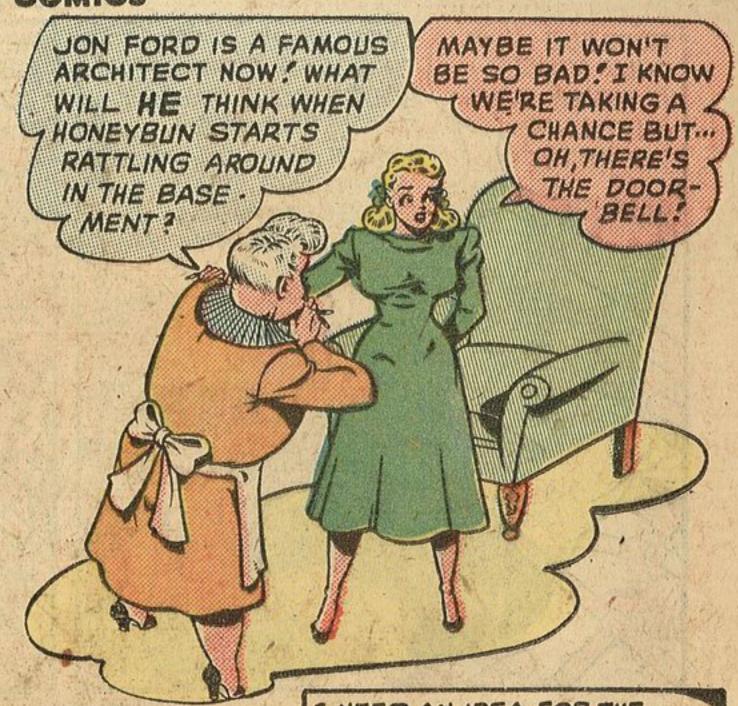


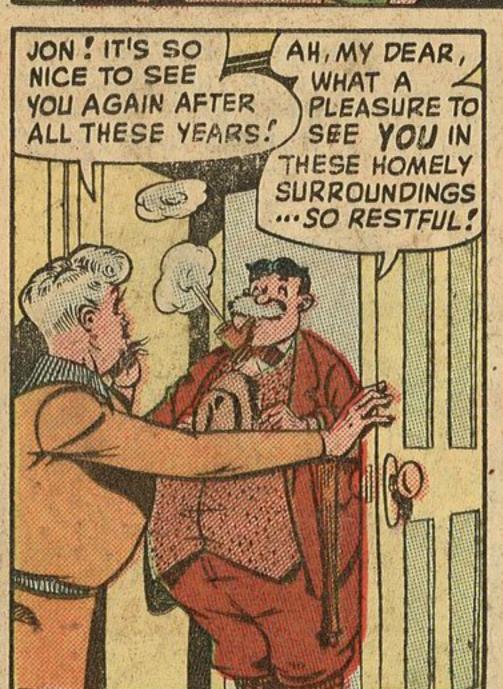




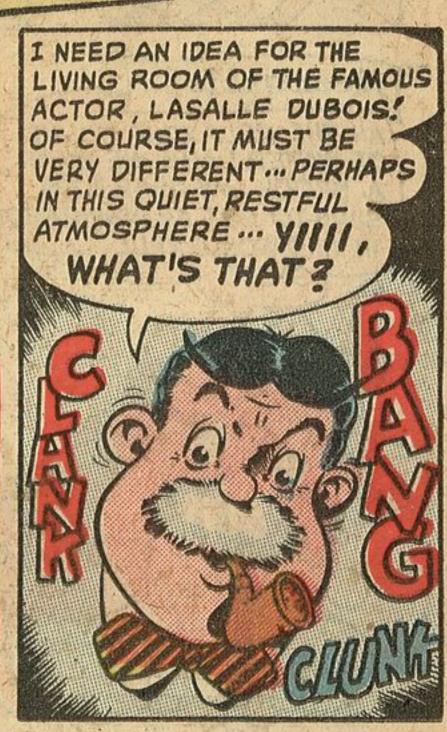




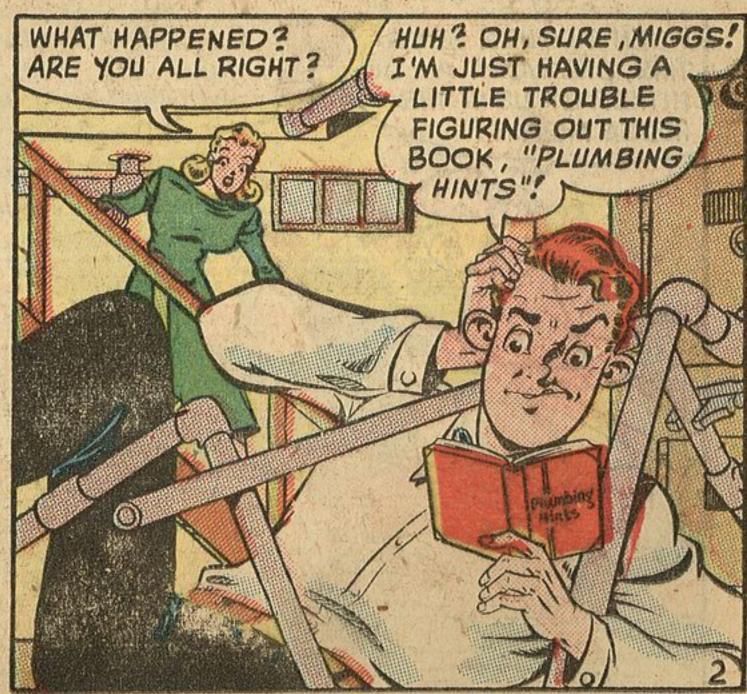








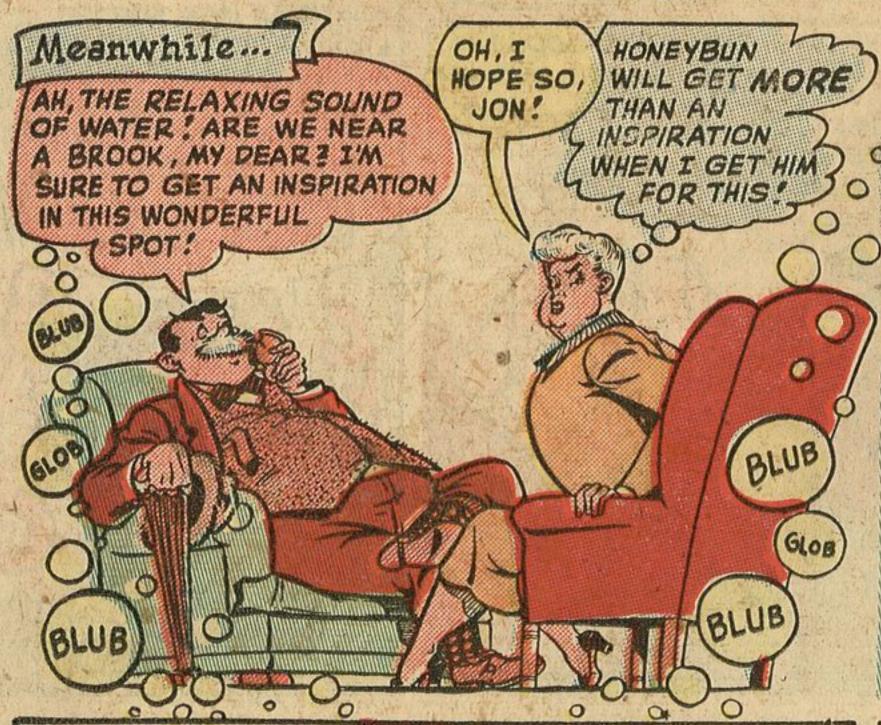




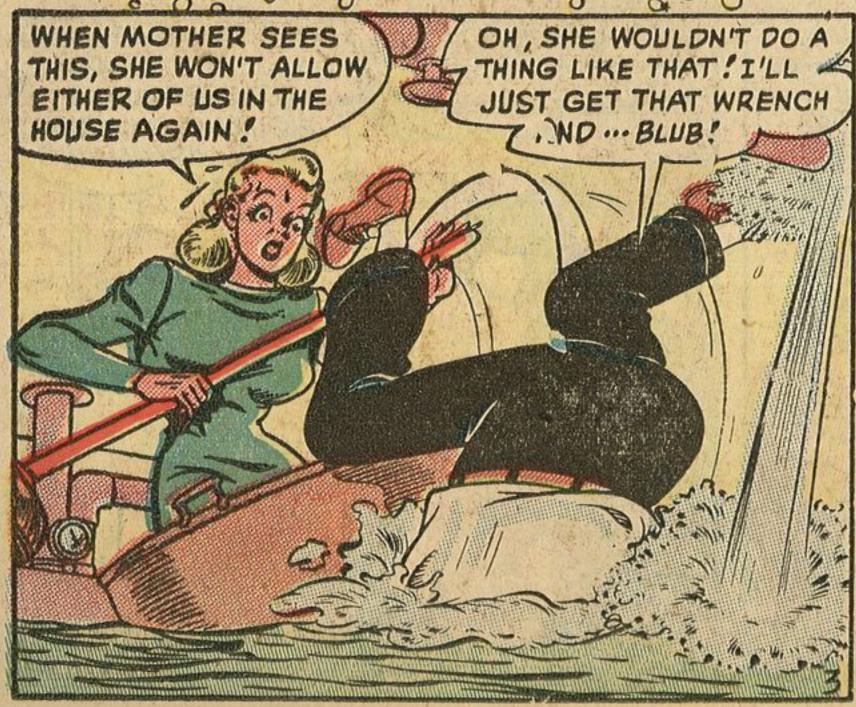






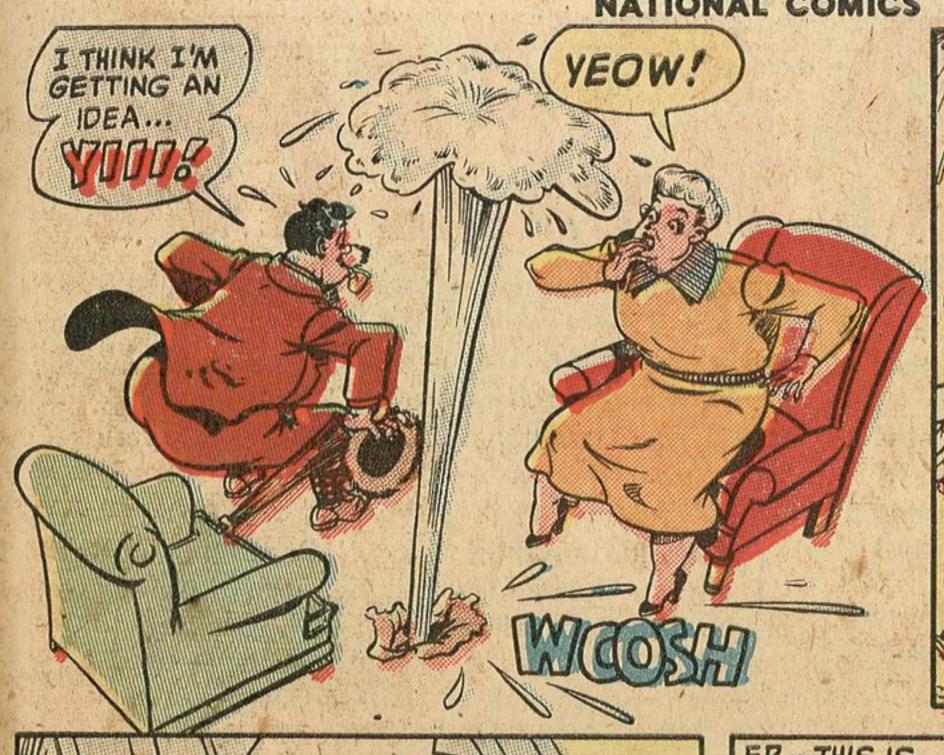






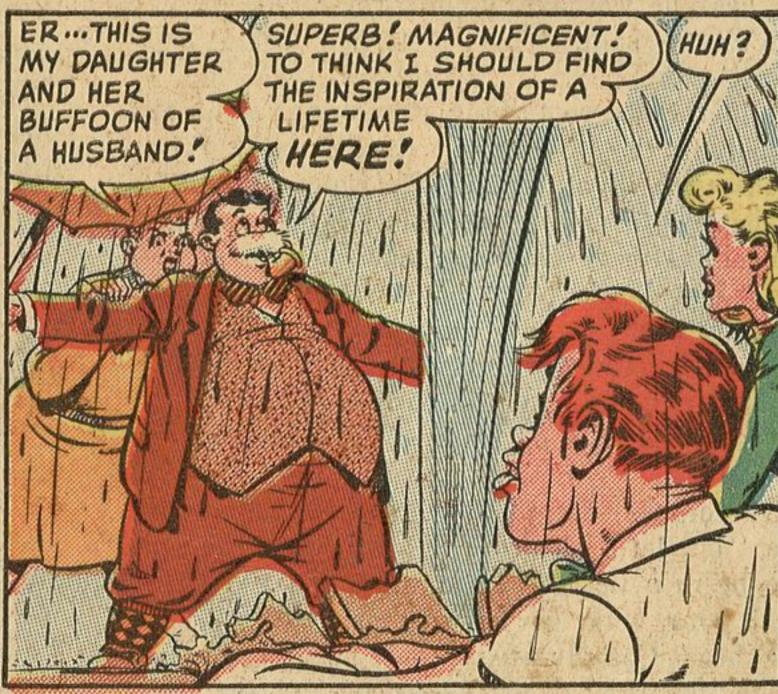


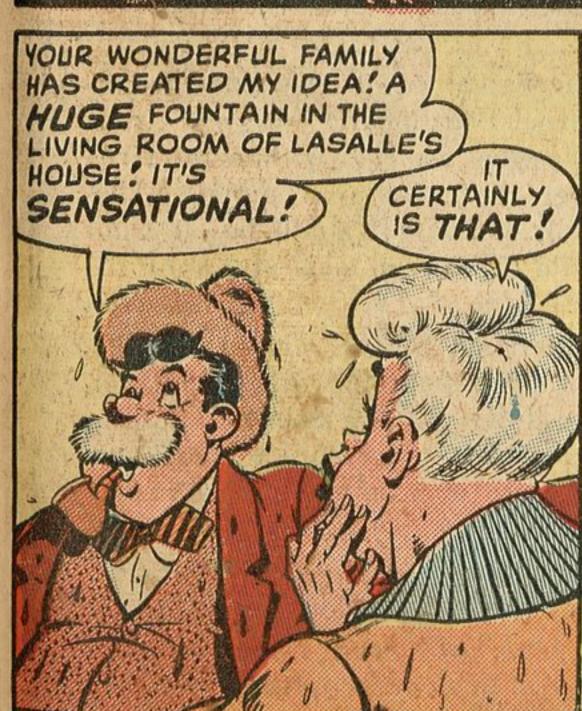
















CARNIE CALAHAN and Colonel Lane stood morosely in front of the tiger cage. "Sheba is dead," Carnie said. "They just carted her body away."

"That's the fourth big cat this week," the Colonel answered worriedly "At this rate we won't have any animal show left. This blasted wet, cold weather is to blame; the cats can't

take it."

"Maybe the new keeper's disinfectant spray will break the flu epidemic," Carnie hazarded. "He's consciencious enough."

"I hear he was a first-class vet in his day," the Colonel said. "He just had some bad

breaks."

While they were talking they heard a quick step behind them. Turning, they faced a thin, nervous man in a dark suit. "Colonel Lane," the visitor said in a low voice, "I'm Gordon Schill, of Hilson Dales Animal Farms." He extended a hard, bony hand to the Colonel. "Sorry to hear of your troubles but, of course," he said, emitting a dry chuckle, "it means more business for my company."

"To say nothing of your cut," Carnie inter-

jected.

"Of course," Schill said, with a humorless smile, "but let's get down to business. I happened to be in a near-by town when the Farm received your wire, so I came right over."

"I hear Consolidated Shows had a bit of trouble like this a few weeks back," the Col-

onel said.

"Yes, too bad," Schill replied absentl
"Now, about the cats. How many do you
want? Here is the latest price list," he added;
handing over a small booklet.

Colonel Lane rapidly thumbed through the paper pamphlet, his face wrinkling in a frown "Look at these prices, Carnie," he said. "They are just double what we paid last season. This will about break us."

"Prices have gone up on everything," Schill said tersely. "You can take it or leave it."

"This is outrageous," the Colonel sputtered.
"I won't pay it. I'll deal with another animal outfit."

"Suit yourself," Schill said derisively, "the prices are all the same. What will you do in the meantime?" With that he clamped his

derby tightly on his head and stamped off, saying, "I'll be at the hotel in town until tomorrow morning, if you change your mind."

"He's right, Carnie," the Colonel said sadly. "I guess we'll have to buy up some fresh stock, even though it will put us in the red for the season."

"I have a faint idea kicking around in my head about this whole deal. Let's go back to the ticket wagon. I'd like to see the copy of that wire you sent to Hilson Dales Animal Farms. After that I have a bit of telephoning to do and a trip to make into town."

It was late that evening when Carnie and Colonel Lane entered the Alton Hotel. "I guess it's best we order the cats," Colonel Lane said. "I just hope we don't lose any more."

"I can practically guarantee that, Colonel," Carnie replied cryptically. He rapped on the door of Room 214 and, after a short delay,

Schill opened it.

"What's the idea of busting in here unannounced?" Schill snarled, poking his head out the door

"I didn't want to risk the possibility that you and our nice, new keeper would give us the slip," Carnie said, entering the room and forcing Schill back toward Ben, the man Colonel Lane had recently hired to take charge of the show's animals. Surprise rooted the keeper to the floor.

Later, Carnie explained to the amazed Colonel. "Schill hired Ben to drift from one circus to another, infecting the cats with a flu virus he sprayed over the cages as a supposed disinfectant. Schill, of course, would be on hand to make the sale of new animals and split the commission with him.

"A call to National Shows verified my theory," he continued. "Ben had worked for them, too. What tipped me off was Schill's knowing we had lost cats, when your wire to the Farm didn't mention any specific kind of animal."

"At least Hilson Dales Farm is making good on the animals we lost due to Schill's racket," the Colonel said, with a sigh of relief.

"Too bad," observed Carnie, "that we can't put Schill and Ben in a cage with the new ones."







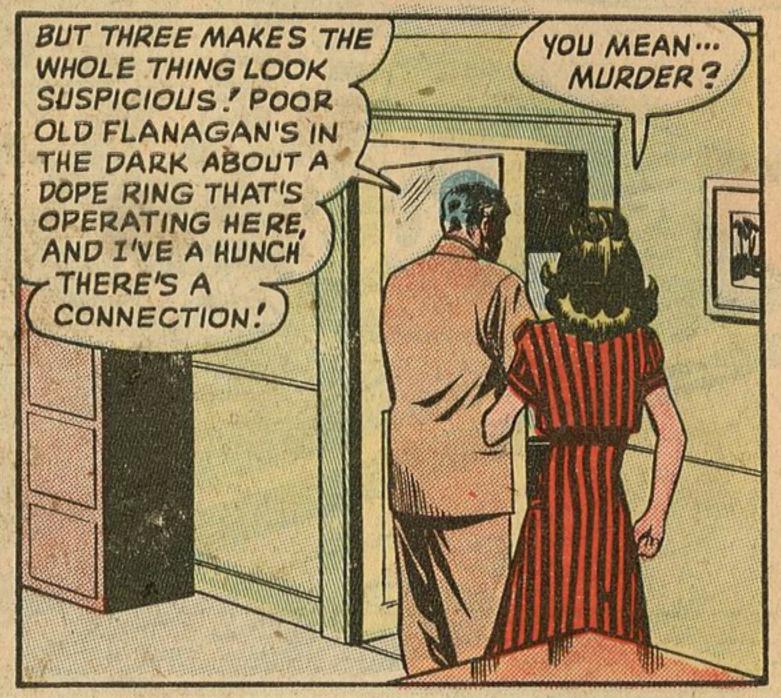






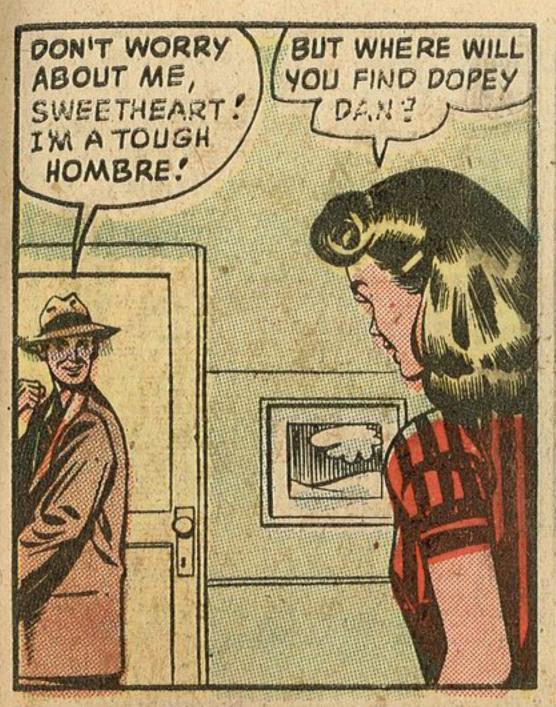
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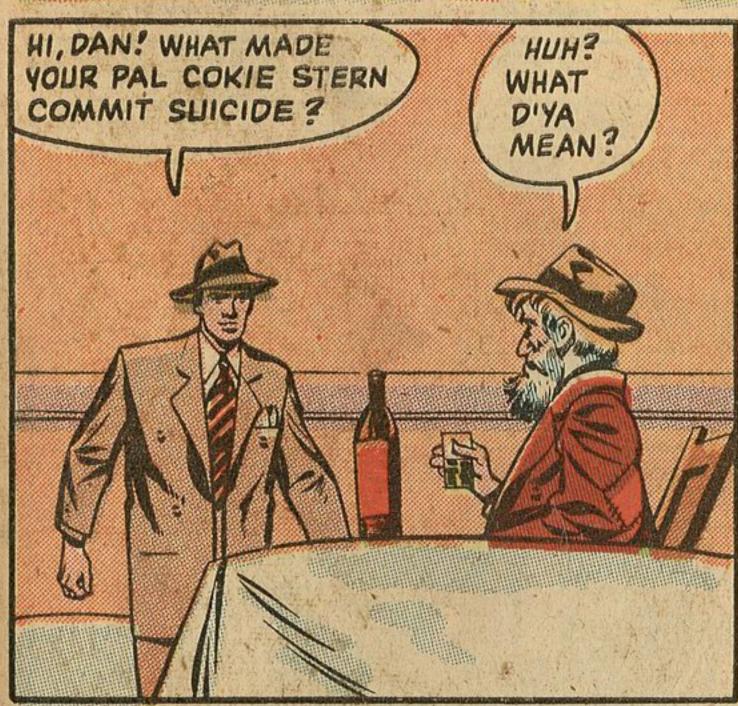










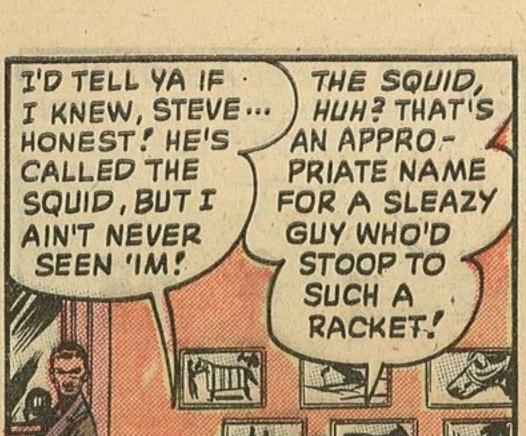


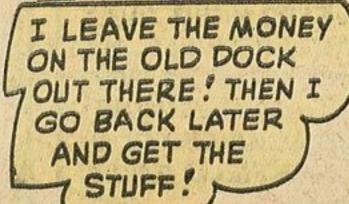










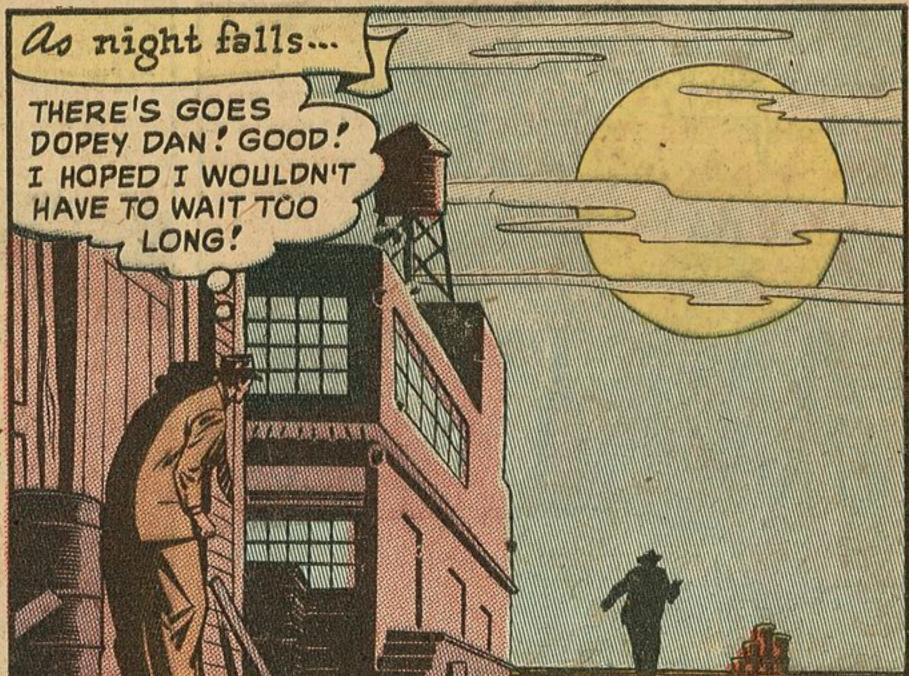






HE'S GETTING DOPE TONIGHT! I'LL KILL
THIM ... AND STEVE WOOD,
TOO, IF I HAVE TO!

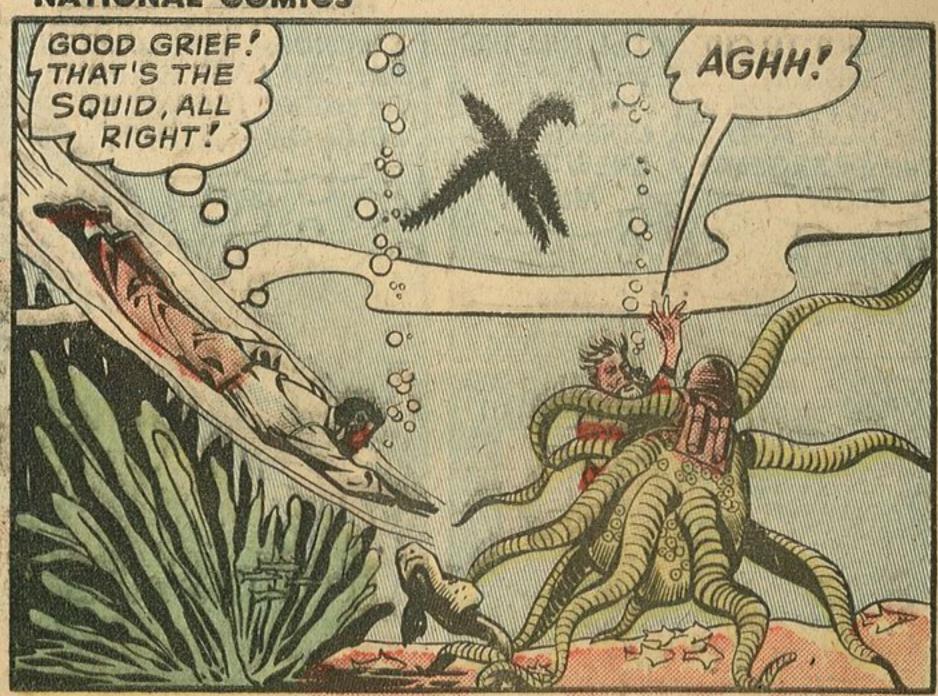






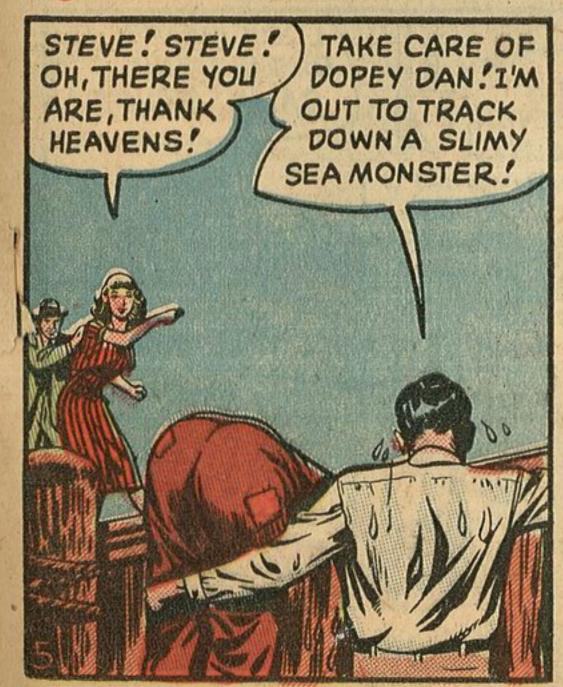












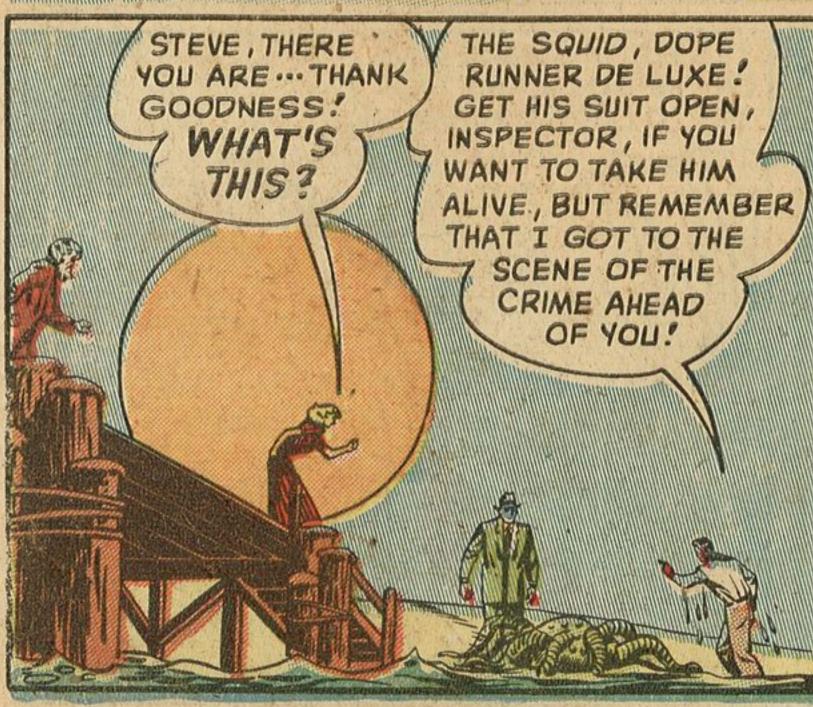




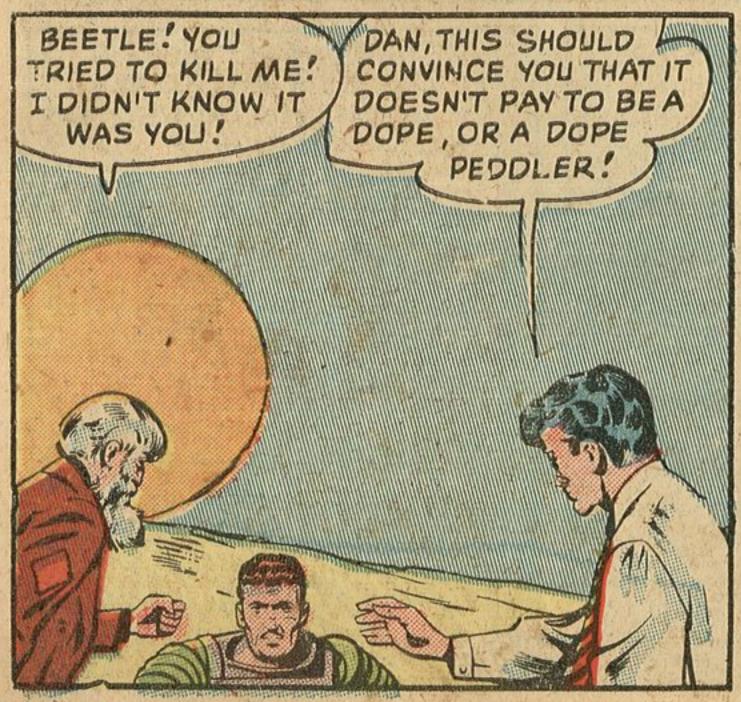
















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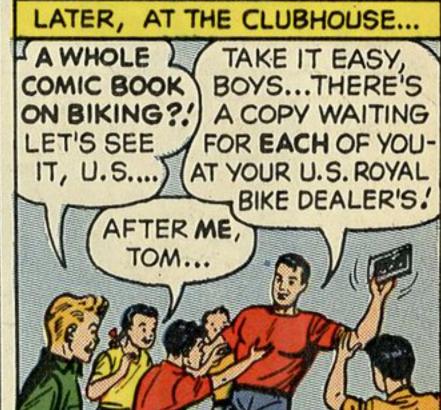
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U.S. ROYAL
AND THE
BOYS OF THE
ELM CITY BIKE
CLUB GO
INTO ACTION
WITH A
DARING PLAN!













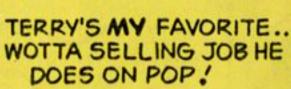
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